ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CENTRAL BAP. ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH,

COOSA COUNTY, ALA.,

INCLUDING THE

First Sabbath in October, 1856.

TUSKEGEE, ALA.
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE SOUTH WESTERN BAPTIST.
1856.

El Ebhalita Church
met in Conference
August the 2. 1873
& Signed the Doors of
the Church for [illegible]
Members.
Oh Mother the Church

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LIST OF MINISTERS,
WITH THEIR POST OFFICES.

ORDAINED.	POST-OFFICES.	COUNTIES.
JOSEPH BANKSTON	Nixburg	Coosa,
J. D. WILLIAMS	Wetumpka	"
PLATT STOUT	"	"
JOEL NICHOLS	"	"
ROBERT STEWART	"	"
B. SKIPPER	Adams' Store ..	Tallapoosa.
J. M. RUSSELL	Dudleyville	Chambers.
E. T. AKINS	Traveller's Rest	Coosa,
J. R. STEELY	Hanover.....	"
J. H. COLLEY	Kowaliga	Tallapoosa.
JOSEPH HILL	Sockapatoy	Coosa,
J. W. JETER	Central Institute	"
W. T. ROGERS	Hanover	"
Y. D. HARRINGTON	Wetumpka.....	"

LICENTIATES.	POST-OFFICES.	COUNTIES.
D. HARRINGTON	Wetumpka.....	Coosa,
CHARLES GREGORY	"	"
W. H. WOMBLE	Central Institute	"

MINUTES.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, COOSA COUNTY, ALA., Oct. 4th.

THE CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, met with this Church, in its Twelfth Annual Session, on the 4th day of October, A. D.. 1856.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Joseph Bankston, from Romans, the 12th Chap. 4th and 5th verses; and was followed by Elder J. Nickols.

At half past 1 o'clock, the body was called to order by Elder Bankston—prayer by Elder A. T. Holmes. Geo. E. Brewer, acting as Clerk *pro tem.*

By request, Bros. J. W. Bozeman, and A. T. Maxwell, read the letters sent up from the Churches.

LIST OF DELEGATES—FIRST DISTRICT.

Ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS—Licentiates in *Italics.*

Shiloh.—JOSEPH BANKSTON, A. H, Kendrick, R. R. Edwards, A. Little.
Elkahatchie.—B. SKIPPER, A. T. Maxwell, and Jas. Walker.
Friendship.—P. McKinney, Robert Goodgame, and William H. Thomas.
Mt. Zion, Tal.—John Coffman, John Benton, and S. J. Jackson.
Town Creek.—Isaac Smith, and Jacob Moon.
Spring Hill.—Jas. W. Bullard, and David Conner.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Liberty, Tal.—J. Smith, and L. Thomas.
Union.—J. M. RUSSELL, A. T. HOLMES, J. W. JETER. *W C Barnes,* J. D. Letcher, A. B. Callaway, J. W. Bozeman, F. M. Letcher, and Wm. M. Lindsey.
Harmony.—Nathan Jester.
Bethesda.—J. R. Cross, J. H. Cleveland, and J. A. Suttle.
Concord.—Levi Justice, S. Jackson, A. B. Gary, and J. Stephens.
Shady Grove.—L. Chadwick, C. J. Crew, and G. B. Allen.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Mt. Zion.—J. NICKOLS, and J. Johnson.
Antioch.—E. R. Smith, John L. Rogers, and J. W. Rogers.
Good Hope.—*D. Harringdon,* and F. W. Timmerman:
Bethlehem, Tal.—J. N. Garrett, and M. Joiner.
1st Wetumpka.—PLATT STOUT, and R. Smoot,

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Weogufka.—E. Calfee, D. A. Griffin, S. Hughes, and B. Callaway.
Salem.—Abel Lewis.
Poplar Spring.—Guy Smith, J. R. STEELY, J. A. Pylant, and Geo. Ellis.
Rockford.—I. W. Suttle, Geo. E. Brewer, and J. L. Gilder.
Paint Creek.—Letter sent up, but no delegate.
Providence.—Wm. Conoway, and Henry Norrill.
Mt. Olive.—J. W. Boatright, Wm. C. Brown, A. Corley, and E. Lambert.
Union Springs.—J. R. Morris.

After enrolling the names of delegates, the body proceeded to its organization, by re-electing Elder Joseph Bankston Moderator; and electing Geo. E. Brewer, Clerk: Elder H. Carmichael, of Liberty. and J. M. Newman, of Tuskegee Associations, acting as tellers.

During the time of balloting, by permission, the Moderator appointed as

a Committee to arrange preaching, Bros. R. Edwards, G. Smith, R. Smoot, P. McKinney, and J. J. Bullington.

The Moderatar, elect, returned his thanks for the continued expression of regard from his brethren; and announced the body organized, and ready for business. Ministering brethren were invited to seats, to participate in the proceedings.

Bro. Russell Holman, was received as a visitor from Cahaba Association.

On motion of Bro. Stout, a Committee was appointd to report on the S. B. P. Society, consisting of Bros. A. T. Holmes, P. Stout, and J. W. Jeter.

The Committee to "Arrange preaching," reported—Elder Carmichael to preach to-night, Sabbath. At 9 o'clock, A. M., Elder Holmes. At 3 o'clock, P. M., Elder Holman. At night Elder Welch.

Bros. J. W. Bozeman and F. M. Letcher, appointed to assist the Clerk in making a digest of the letters.

The body then adjourned to meet on Monday morning, the 6th inst., at 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Elder Stout.

SABBATH, Oct. 5th.

The services of this day were conducted in the order above specified; except that Elder B. Skipper, preached the Missionary Sermon at 11 o'clock, from Matt., 24th Chap., 14 verse; after which a collection was taken up, amounting to $53 55.

MONDAY, Oct. 6th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Carmichael.

Upon a call for "Correspondence;" Bros. H. H. Bacon, and J. M. Newman, presented themselves with a letter from Tuskegee Association.

Coosa River, J. J. Bullington, O. Welch, John Wilmer and C. R. Cross, with letter.

Liberty, H. Carmichael.

Carey, H. L. Harlan, requesting that correspondence be opened with them, which was agreed to. The right hand of fellowship was then extended to correspondents.

The rules of Decorum were then read. Roll called and names of absentees erased.

The following Report from the "Board of Trustees of the Central Institute," was read, in connection with that of A. T. Holmes, president of said Institute.

"The Trustees of the Central Institution beg leave to make the following report:

Immediately after your last session, we opened a correspondence with Eld. A. T. Holmes, of Cuthbert Ga., and are happy to inform you that we have secured his services as President of the Institution for five years, from the 23d of January last, by giving him the use of the property, free of charge; and he is bound on his part, to make the school what it was contemplated in the origin of the institution. He is also compelled, by contract, to return the property at the end of the time in as good condition as now; (wear and providential circumstances considered:) he at all times is bound to keep a sufficient and competent corps of professors to carry on the school successfully.

"And we are, in truth, bound to say, that thus far our highest expectations are fully met in president Holmes as a teacher, a christian, and a gentleman The corps of Professors who are associated with him, are fully competent; and, from the examination at the end of the last session of the school, we are of the opinion, that the wishes of the Association have been fully met; and we are fully prepared to say that there is no institution where the hopes of fond parents may be realized, if they are not, or cannot be met at the Central Institue. We invite brethren to come and see, and prove what we say for themselves.

"The Trustees have fixed the following rates of tuition:
$20. for the first class per term of five months.
$16. for the second " " "
$12. for the third " " "
$8. for the fourth " " "
Board per month $10,0C washing, fires, and Lodging included

"For the present prosperity of the Institution, we refer the Association to the subjoined report of the President, Elder A. T. Holmes.

"We are happy to be able to say, that since your last session, through the energetic labors of the "Building Committee," the house is completed at a cost, to the Association, of $8,738.

The Association will recollect that the building was let to contract for the sum of $8,500, but owing to extra work which could not be dispensed with, for the proper protection, convenience, and security of the building, we have incurred the additional expense of $ 238 00
For furnishing the house with chairs, desks, &c 158 23
Which makes the actual cost of the house $ 8738 00
Traveling expense and pay of agent 162 00
Making the entire cost, $9058 23
The total debt can be covered by $4000 00
To meet this we have on hand,
Cash $ 70 00
Doubtful 633 00
Solvent assets $ 1726 50
Insolvent 709 00
Total $3138 50

"Since the last Association, we have raised by subscription and cash, the sum of $400 for the purchase of an apparatus for the Institution. We have been fortunate in the purchase of one, which, by competent judges, is estimated to be worth the sum of $500, at a cost of $320. Some little cost has been incurred by way of transportation, say $13 14

"As the apparatus is yet incomplete, we earnestly solicit the brethren to enlarge this fund for its completion.

"We would earnestly urge the Association to consider the pressing necessity of improving the lot so as to protect the building from the intrusion of stock, as well as ornamenting and beautifying the premises, that it may present and external attractiveness, to correspond with its internal convenience.

"You will see that in deducting the doubtful and insolvent subscriptions it will leave a positive deficit. unprovided for, of $2203 50 ; thus leaving your Trustees without the means of liquidating the debt of the building ; and entirely without means to improve the lot, and thus protect the house from intrusion.

"The whole debt is due on the house, the first day of March, A. D., 1857. To supply the deficit, by your appointment, Bro. Pylant has been continued in the field as agent, during the year. For the success of his agency, we refer you to his report.

"The Association will perceive from the statements which have been made, that, notwithstanding we have exceeded the amount subject to our control in erecting a suitable building, and furnishing that building with proper facilities, it is not sufficient in size and convenience for the growing prosperity of your Institution. Boys are coming in continually from other associational limits, and we are forced to the conclusion, that the building must be enlarged to meet the demands of the increasing patronage which will be pressing upon us.

"In view of all these facts, we recommend that a special correspondence

be opened with* Tuskeegee, Alabama, Coosa River, Liberty, Unity, Arbacoochie, and Carey Associations; inviting their co-operation, and asking their assistance. We recommend, also, that an efficient agent be appointed to canvas the State, for the purpose of increasing our means, that the demands alluded to may all be met."

Report of A. T. Holmes. President to the Board of Trustees, Central Institute, Coosa County, Alabama.

The following report respecting the condition of your Institution is respectfully submitted. A. T. HOLMES, Principal.

1856, 1*st Term*—January 21 to June 17.—Whole number entered, 52; 1st class, 20; 2d class, 15; 3d class, 9; 4th class, 8.

2*d Term*—July 14 to December 14.—Whole number entered, 110; 1st class, 67; 2d class, 14; 3d class, 16; 4th class, 13.

"One promising boy, Julius Norton, of Montgomery, died on the 27th of August.

"The school is in a healty condition. The classes, generally, are making fair progress; some of them, very flattering progress. The general conduct is good, and, in many instances, on the part of older and more advanced pupils, it is exemplary.

"Professors Savage and Smith afford evidence, continually, of faithfulness and decided competency.

"The prospects of the Institution, so far as I have opportunity to form a correct opinion, are altogether encouraging.

"I beg leave to remind the Board, that our apparatus is not yet complete. Some illustrations in Chemistry cannot be made, satisfactorily, until the deficiency is supplied.

"I would remark, also, that a Library is a very important appendage to a Literary Institution. Some few books have been presented to the Institution, and we indulge the hope, that, by presents and by purchase, we may be able to boast, before another year is passed, that we have a useful Library.

"A large bell, worth some fifty or sixty dollars, would contribute, very much, to order and regularity. May I be permitted to urge the request that measures be adopted to procure one.

A. T. HOLMES, Principal.

Bro. Pylant, and the subordinate agents, made a verbal report in regard to their transactions, in connection with the above. Both reports adopted.

The regular business was suspended, and a special prayer was offered by the Moderator, in behalf of the Institute, that God might crown the enterprise with success to His name's honor and glory.

The regular business was further suspended, and a subscription opened for raising a larger apparatus fund—also, a library fund.

The regular order was again suspended, to allow the Committee on "Ministerial Education" to make thier Report, which is as follows:

"Your committee on "Ministerial Education," beg leave to submit the following as the most feasible plan which suggests itself.

"There are two points which present themselves in this subject, and which claim our attention.

1st. What kind of instruction do ministers need; and what kind is demanded by the denomination?

2nd. What are the means by which that demand may be supplied?

I. "The nature of the education needed.

"It has ever been the tendency among us to rely, too much, upon the mere strength of our principles. Truth is great, and must prevail; is a maxim

*The names of these Associations were inserted by the Committee raised for that, and other purposes connected with this report.

which has taken possession of our minds, to the exclusion of others. For it is equally certain, that if truth prevails, it will be in consequence of the means used, as in every other case, the means used must correspond with the end to be accomplished.

"The end to be accomplished in the education of the ministry, is to meet the tremenduous array of learning brought to bear against the truth by Pedo-Baptists, as well as by all skepticism and infidelity, of whatever kind or character, which is certainly being brought against one or more of God's sacred truths as revealed in the bible. It is folly to conceal from ourselves the fact, that Pedo-Baptists and the skeptical world, combine a vast amount of educated intellectual power, all of which is engaged in subverting some of the sacred truths of the bible, all of which, as Baptists, we hold most sacred and dear—can this hostile force be met, and deprived of its energy by a half educated ministry? All are ready to answer, no.

. "When we remember that our purpose is not to silence the learned who oppose us, and the truth, so that they shall oppose us no more; but that the providence of God has imposed upon us the task of converting that education to our side, and to the support of the truths of the bible, and to cause its mighty energies to be used for the promulgation of the gospel truth of salvation—what means are naturally proper and adequate to such an undertaking as this?

"Shall we send pious, but meagerly educated men to exhort the learned to embrace bible principles, when the bible says 'go teach'? It would be just as wise to attempt to exhort a man into a knowledge of mathematics or astronomy—Nothing but education can meet education. True, God does often choose the weak things of this world to confound the mighty: but we are speaking as human beings, of human operations. The question is not what *God may* do, but what *we ought* to do.

"Knowledge is power; and if men without it, combat men with it, they will find themselves like the king in the gospel, with but one thousand soldiers, while his adversary has ten thousand. and will be compelled to beat a truce. Not only must our weapons be similar in kind, but they must be equal in power.

"But while our necessities demand the highest grade of scholarship that the world can produce, it is equally clear, that we are still more urgently pressed for education of a very different kind. The possession of scholars does not do away with the necessity of educated ministers, for these can be brought to bear with effectiveness, where the other would be useless, or at least, but a poor 'make shift;' for on the latter, the great brunt of the battle rests. Hitherto our triumphs have been achieved by this class of men, almost entirely: and probably there will not be a period, for hundreds of years to come, when these very men will not, after all, be the main dependence for the spread of Baptist principles—for the spread of the gospel.

"Our great object, then, should be to increase this division of our forces. Many are pressing into the ranks who are without even this lowest branch of education; while many others concious of their lack of education, are thus prevented, much to their grief, from enlisting. Thus is our strong arm deprived of its bone and sinew. Our most successful preachers, for the most part, have been those who had no other mental qualifications than those of a man of common sense; and a tolerable acquaintance with the English language, acquiring it during the exercise of his ministry, without aid from colleges or teachers. If the experience of the past should be any guide for the future, we should endeavor to raise all the rank and file of our present and future ministry to this level.

"Two objects then are before us; *first* to put some of our ministry in the rank of the world's scholarship; and, *secondly*, to raise the remainder to such scholarship as may be attainable—the lowest not being beneath the standard of those who have been described above.

"Now can these two things be attained in one institution. Manifestly not: for no one institution could be accessible to so many students. One institution of the highest grade, would be fully as many as the Southern States

would support with money, men, or students. Our interests are so divided, that all our best efforts in favor of one such institution, would fall far short of many State institutions which now exist. Let us, then, so far as the first class is concerned, patronize the institutions already in operation; and amply endow and support them, and we shall not want men who may cope with the subtleties of Pedoism, Popeism, or any other ism.

"When we wish to select an instrument with which to operate on a certain material, we must first examine the material to be operated upon, and then select the instrument accordingly. Now what is the material to be operated upon in the present case? It consists of men, mostly between the age of twenty and thirty-five years; mostly married men; mostly poor; mostly of very limited education, or none at all; and mostly willing to avail themselves of a practical means of mental improvement.

"Let us look for a moment at the wants of these men. Shall we offer them instruction in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, and the usual round of scientific and literary education? This would be to tantalize them. They have no time for these things. Their children cry for bread: or if they have no family, they are disheartened at this range of mountains. Moreover, they ask, what good will it do. How often we hear them say, 'I want to preach—I do not want to read Horace—I want to learn to use my Bible." It is in vain to tell him that classics and scientific studies increase mental power and discipline. The effect of such discipline is too long coming to satisfy his wants. He believes, and he believes wisely, that the same amount of energy, expended in a different way, will do him more good. He wants to learn what to preach, and how to preach efficiently. It is vain to tell him we have theological schools where these things are taught. True we have schools, but of what use are they? How many of our rising ministry do they benefit? Comparatively few. The reason is, that they are not adapted to effect the object that they propose, and, consequently, do not effect that object If we were to rear our boys for the ministry, without any regard to their character or inclinations, as do some, if not all, Pedohierarchies, then our present plan of operations would do. In fact, our present plan had its origin from copying that system.

"Our present plan is situated so far up the hill of science, that it would take an ordinary baptist minister some ten or fifteen years to reach it successfully—And so far as the masses of our most useful ministers are concerned, it might as well be in the Moon, or planet Jupiter. We therefore see we have gained but little in attempting to practice things which are incompatible with our faith.

"As to the means by which the demand for education is to be supplied.

"That scholarships of the highest order may be attained, let a concentrated effort be made by the instutions now in operation—let each supply the demand for endowment, and this would be but a slight tax upon the funds committed to their trust for theological purposes, while the bulk would remain for carrying on a different and better system than now, by separating the Theological, from the Scientific, and Literary course. Let the qualifications for admission into these. be no more than those required to enter the Freshman class in common colleges, with the classics omitted. Let it be free to all.

"And here permit us, as your committee, to urge the necessity, in connection with our own flourishing Institution, (the Central,) that at the Association, we make an effort to endow a professorship of Theology, where our own ministry might be taught the Pastoral theology of the Bible, and the Bible alone. Theology should not be taught as is commonly done, from text books, but from a careful study of the Bible. The thinking powers of our young brethren should be brought into operation from a careful study of the Sacred Text. The student should be taught how to select a text—how to analyze it—how to illustrate it—and how to construct his thoughts into a discourse, guarding against making the text mean what it does not; and yet, fairly exhausting all its real teachings; clearly distinguishing between what is actually taught, and what is merely inferential.

"Even a few weeks daily instruction by a teacher of ability, such as here hinted at, could not fail to make any man, of ordinary understanding, a tolerably systematic thinker, or to say the least, would be an improvement which he and his hearers would feel sensibly.

"The course of study should comprehend a longer, or shorter period according to the option of the student. And for ourselves, we think the idea of graduation in the study of the Bible, or theology, as set forth by some of our schools, is a ridiculous one; and we think it will be so viewed by every person of common sense, when properly considered; and as such, it should not enter into our vocabulary.

"We are of the opinion, that if each Association in the South, were to adopt the plan, and thus provide the means of improving the minds of their ministers, it would not be long before the Baptists would hold as high a position for learning, as they do for *truth*.

"Now it may be argued that many of the weak and small Associations have no schools like some of the wealthy. Let them cast in their 'mite' with the wealthy, so the strong will be more able to bear the infirmities of the weak. Objections may arise, that even we, the Central, are not able to accomplish this great and good work. True enough, we may not be able to do it at once—the world was not made in one day, although God was able to have completed it. Therefore, it teaches us to try, hope, toil, labor, and pray. We are persuaded that if we begin this good work in earnest, looking to God He will crown our efforts as He has done heretofore, in some undertakings which seemed to be very doubtful; yet, through the blessing of an indulgent God they have been achieved.

"Brethren, remember the consecrating text used when the Central Association was brought into life with but three churches: 'Despise not the day of small things.' Thus has she gone on from one degree to another, ever recollecting, that our means are small, but having a large heart. We now may say, 'What hath God wrought,'—and what a work it will be thus to still 'Lend to the Lord by giving to our poor' brethren in the ministry, the means of improving their minds, and thus being more wise to win souls to Christ.

"There need be no new expense for house. Let churches pay the board and clothing of their young ministers, and the Association their tuition, and the work will be done without a burden to any person. Moreover, it will be handsomely and easily done to the glory of God, and edification of the churches.

"In conclusion we would offer the following:

Resolved, That there be a committee of five raised to report some plan of operation to the present Association, in connexion with the recommendation in the body of the report.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. C. BARNES,
J. D. FLETCHER,
J. M RUSSELL. } Com.

The above Report was adopted.

The Committee contemplated in the resolution attached, was composed of Bros. Stout, Steely, I. W. Suttle, Smoot, and J. R. Cross. On motion of I. W. Suttle, Bros. J. M. Russell, Barnes, and J. D. Letcher, were added.

The following Committees were appointed to report during the session, viz.:

On Finance and Auditing, J. A. Pylant, P. McKinney, and A. T. Maxwell.

On Documents and Requests, J. M. Russell, I. W. Suttle, and E. Calfee.

On Nominations, P. Stout, D. A. Griffin, and R. Edwards.

On Correspondence and anything requiring the labors of a Committee, Guy Smith, J. R. Cross, and A. B. Callaway.

The body then adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the appointed hour, convened and resumed business. Prayer by Elder Skipper.

Appointed as a Committee to fill the Blanks in the Report of the "Board of Trustees," and to report thereon, Bros. Griffin, Suttle, and G. Smith.

The following Report from the Treasurer, was submitted;

"Your Treasurer begs leave to make the following Report:

In hand at your last session,	1 00
Received from Financial Committee,	176 95
	$177 95
Paid Clerk fees and printing Minutes,	66 05
To agent of Domestic Missions	22 50
" " of Indian "	36 50
" " of Foreign "	5 00
" " of African "	7 00
" " of Bible Cause,	13 50
" " of S. B. P. Society,	7 00
" " of Book Depository,	6 00
" " of Central African Missions,	13 40
Total,	$176 95
Which leaves in my hands,	$1 00

All of which is respectfully submitted."

W. C. Barnes, Treasurer.

The Report was referred to the Committee on Finance and Auditing.

Bro. Jeter from the Committee on "Missions of the S. B. Convention, stated that he, being the only member present, was not prepared with a Report.

Bro. Stout moved that Bros. Maxwell and A. B. Callaway be added to that Committee. Carried.

The report from the Committee on Temperance was read, as follows, viz:

"Your 'Committee on Temperance' beg leave to state that they have had the subject under consideration; and, from the limited means at their command, of ascertaining the state of temperance among the churches in the bounds of this Association, they are sorry to report that temperance is not as strictly observed by the members generally, nor are its principles as strictly enforced by the churches as your Committe are of the opinion should be done.

"It is true there may be, and are some exceptions to this statement; because some of our brethren, and perhaps, some of the churches, still maintain their high position taken in reference to this subject; but in a general sense, Temperance is on the decline in our bounds. It is a too common occurrence to see brethren in the *grogshops* treating, drinking, and mingling with the most dissipated.

"While we disclaim all intention of endeavoring to force our individual opinion upon all the churches constituting this body, it is, undoubtedly, the duty of all Baptists, to abstain from all appearance of evil; and that drinking, mixing, and mingling at the same board with profanity and dissipation, is an evil, no one can doubt.

"Each church has an inalienable right to regulate its own internal concerns, taking the word of God as its only guide; and it is the duty of each church to require its members to so conduct themselves, in reference to this, (as well as all other immoralities,) that the cause of Christ suffers no reproach.

"It might be said that there are other immoralites and vices of sufficient importance and magnitude, to claim the attention and reports of special committees, which is true enough. Even temperance in its broadest sense is an important matter; but the subfect of dram drinking has been the most

fruitful source of distress to the christian world; therefore, every effort should be made to purge the churches of this monster evil.

"Your Committee are sorry to see so little regard paid to the reports of former Committees to this Association—in fact, there is generally so little respect had for the reports on Temperance, that it seems almost folly to attempt any report at all. We would call to the minds of our brethren, and especially the clerks of churches, the resolutions adopted by this Association in connection with the report of the Committee on Temperance in 1853 and 1854.* Unless the object be to report the state of Temperance at each session, we deem that nothing could be added to the report of 1854 to make it more impressive. WM. CHANCELLOR.

The report was taken up and discussed at some length; during which discussion Bro. Holmes requested a suspension, to allow him to read the report from the Committee on the S. B. P. Society, as he would be compelled to leave in the morning. Suspension agreed to, when the following report was submitted.

"A contemplation of the condition of the world at the present day, as to its intellectual, its moral, and religious aspect, awakens emotions that are truly sublime. Science and art in all their elevated attainments and astounding developments; and knowledge in all its wide spread diffusion among the masses in Christian countries, excite in the mind of the calm and considerate, fearful apprehension as to the results which must be realized.—The nations of the earth are agitated; Kings are trembling upon their tottering thrones; and the world approaches a crisis that must involve tremenduous consequences. Our own happy land, our own beloved South, seems to lie directly in the range of some destructive tornado, that threatens to bury us in its destructive passage. In the midst of all the evils which seem connected with this approaching crisis, there is a conservative power, of Divine appointment, which can arrest these evils, and change the direction of that desolating tempest which, in its wild fury, excites our most serious apprehensions. That power is the Religion of the Bible. Any other hope is vain and deceptive.

"This Divine appointment involves certain means, to be brought into exercise by his people, by which the Divine purpose shall be accomplished. First among these is the preaching of the Gospel. Strange as it may seem in the eye of the unbelieving world, the efforts of the living ministry of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, has, for 1800 years, been exerting its own peculiar, but powerful influence upon the moral and intellectual world. God has ordained by the foolishness of preaching, to *save*, and therefore to sanctify, to elevate, to dignify, those who believe.

Next in importance to this Divine arrangement, is the promulgation of that same glorious Gospel through the press. While the minister reaches the heart through one *sense*, the printed page does the same work through another, and hand in hand, harmonizing in all their influences, hasten onward that sublime consumation, in which the light of life shall shine in all its meridian glory. Deeply impressed with this important truth, the Baptists of the South have originated, and put into successful operation, the Southern Baptist Publication Society, in order that such moral and religious books might be circulated throughout the land, as are needed by the denomination, and the people at large. In our own state, a most inviting field presents itself for active labor. Removed as we are from those locations which afford facilities in regard to the procurement of proper reading; having in our midst such ministerial destitution, compared with the wants of our population, it would seem that Alabama, stood in special need of the benefits to be derived from such an organization as the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

"It is to be regretted that the capital of the Society furnished by the de-

* The verbage is here somewhat altered from the original, on account of a portion having been stricken out by the Association.

nomination, has hitherto been insufficient to enable it to operate upon a scale commensurate with the magnitude and importance of the work assigned it. In consequence of inadequate means, she has been compelled to operate upon a small scale. Your committee have great pleasure in stating that during the current year, there has been secured by reliable pledges, to be paid by June 1857 an addition of something more than $20,000 to the capital stock. which will make the aggregate available capital, something over $40,000.— When, however, we look to the extent of the field—the nature and extent of the work to be done, it is seen that a much larger working capital is demanded. It should be brought up to, at least, $50,000 during the current year.

"The Board of managers are arranging plans for extending their operations. They intend going largely into the publication and circulation of Sunday School Books--an approved Chatechism for oral instruction of the colored people—a plan for a $10 library for poor ministers &c.

"They look to state organizations and Associations to co-operate with them in carrying forward the Colporteur enterprise, which they can do better than the society; and the Board have been much encouraged in this by so many Associations in our State, and in other states having engaged in this good work.

"When we consider the direct tendency of good books in correcting error, and the immense tide of error which is sweeping over the land from Northern presses, we are called upon as patriots, as parents, as the disciples of the benevolent Son of God, to take hold of this enterprise, and with humble reliance upon the God of Truth, help it onward to final success. Our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, our state, our whole country, in view of the direct influence which a sanctified press is calculated to produce. urge us to give our means, our co-operation, and our prayers to the Baptist Southern Publication Society.

"In addition to this, our denominational position demands the circulation of our own books. It becomes us to tell the world ourselves, what is our understanding of the word of God, and not to depend upon this work being done for us by others. It is necessary for us to be able to defend, as well as expound our own peculiar views. It is important that our children should be able to read for themselves, what we believe God has taught in regard to our duty to Him, to each other, and the world. All these ends are to be accomplished through this Society, as they cannot be accomplished by any other instrumentality.

"In conclusion, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the Southern Baptist Publication Society is worthy of the confidence, co-operation, and support of the entire Baptist family South.

Resolved, That in view of the present state of things, both religious and political, it is the duty and the interest of Southern Baptists to sustain, and enlarge the operatiions of said Society, whereby a sound, conservative, denominational literature may spread more generally in our country, to counteract the tendency of the errors so frequently emanating from northern presses, professing to issue religious matter."

All of which is respectfully submitted. A. T. HOLMES, Cha'n

The report and resolutions were adopted.

The body then adjourned to meet on Tuesday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Elder Nickols.

TUESDAY, OCT. 7th, 9 O'CLOCK, A. M.

The body met pursuant to adjournment and resumed business. Prayer by Bro. Suttle.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was adopted, after striking off the resolution attached, and a few lines from the body of the report.

The Committee on Nominations, reported Bro. A. T. Holmes to preach the next Introductory Sermon; Bro J. Nickols alternate. Bro. J. M. Russell to preach the Missionary Sermon, with Bro. J. D. Williams alternate. Adopted.

The same Committee were instructed to nominate a Board of Trustees for the Central Institute. They immediately reported the names of Bros. Joseph Bankston, Wm. M Lindsey, W. C. Barnes, J. W. Jeter, A. T. Maxwell, A. B. Callaway, P. McKinney, Richard Smoot, J. D. Letcher, D. W. Bozeman, J. A. Pylant, F. F. Wood, and Owen Swindle, which was adopted.

The Committee raised for filling blank in the report of the Board of Trustees, here submmitted their Report as follows :

"We, your Committee to whom was referred the report of the Trustees of "Central Institute," and to fill the *blank* in said report with the names of associations necessary to correspond with, upon the subject of inviting aid to furnish the Institute with such facilities as may be necessary to meet the growing prosperity of said Institute, it being a Baptist enterprise, not only for the "Central Association," but for the whole Baptist connection throughout the State, as well as the adjoining States. We, your Committee, would, therefore, recommend the said "Central Institute" as one worthy the attention of any young man in the Southern States; we, therefore, would invite the attention of parents and guardians to the Central Baptist Institute and the Talladega Baptist Institute as suitable and proper places, and schools for boys. We speak advisedly as to the Central; not knowing so much about the "Taladega Institute." The "East Alabama Baptist Female Institute," at Tuskeegee, with the Lafayette Female Institute, under Baptist influence, are Institutions at which their girls ought and should be educated ; and we say to all, that the facilities for an education are such that we have no excuse for keeping our sons and daughters in ignorance longer.

"We, your Committee, might say much on the subject of education, a theme on which we delight to dwell, but not having time or statistics before us, upon which we can make an educational report that would interest you, therefore, we do not attempt one, but submit the following resolutions :

Resolved, That all Baptists, as well as all friends of education, use all legal means to advance the interest of our Central Baptist Institute.

Resolved, That we concur fully in the suggestion made by the Trustees of the Central Institute, for the appointment of an efficient agent to canvass the State of Alabama, and take up collections for said Institute, and would recommend the appointment of such agent, and that he be paid a sufficient amount to authorize his canvassing the whole State.

Respectfully submitted." D. A. GRIFFIN, Ch'n.

Report and resolutions adopted.

Bro. Newman proposed to be one of 20 to pay one thousand dollars by the next session of the Association, to the Central Institute.

Bro. Suttle requested the Moderator to appoint a Committee to examine the Report of the Depository Board, and to instruct the Committee to report at the earliest period. The Committee consisted of Bros. G. Smith, D. A. Griffin, A. Little, and W. C. Barnes.

The Report of the Committee on " Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention," was read as follows, viz. :

"In our connection with the Lord Jesus Christ, as members of his church, and subjects of his saving grace, not only is there a most endearing relation institated, but a most solemn obligation imposed. Our Lord, in full view of his claims upon us, and committing his cause into our hands, points to the world as the field of our labor, and bids us cultivate for his glory, and for the good of our race. The different organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention have direct reference to the occupation of this field, and to its proper cultivation. China and Africa are beginning to testify to the important fact, that, to some little extent, we are realizing our obligation. In

our own country, throughout destitute regions, and among some of the Indian tribes a work is in progress, which, in a very limited sense, meets the claims of our Master. The inquiry however, presses itself upon us, which the young Carey is said to have submitted, at the request of the venerable Dr. Ryland, for the consideration of the brethren there assembled. The inquiry is this, are we doing, as an Association, all that we can do for those who have not the gospel, whether at home or abroad. This is a most solemn inquiry, and in view of the obligations devolving upon us, should command our most serious attentions.

"In this limited report, may we not ask what have we done? what are we doing? Millions in heathen lands are without the knowledge of that Truth which maketh wise unto salvation. The Convention has marked out the territory she will occupy. Her Missionaries are there, at different points, her funds are directed to the diffusion of gospel light among the benighted nations of the earth, who dwell in the land of the shadow of death. The appeals to us, in the earnest hope, that sympathizing with her, in all her benevolent enterprises, we will respond to her appeals, and cheerfully unite with her in carrying out her plans. We renew the question, are we doing what we can? are we realizing our obligations? are our sympathies enlisted as they should be? and are missions of the Southern Baptist Convention, sustained by us, as faithful stewards in the service of the Great Head of the church. But the Convention is not confined to the Foreign fields. Within our own limits, among the Indian tribes, far and near, as the means and opportunity justify, she is actively engaged in the work of giving the gospel through a living ministry to the destitute and the idolatrous. Are we interested as becomes us? Do the names of Bowen, Clarke, Priest, Buckner, &c., &c., when sounded in connection with their respective missions, excite within us those emotions, which our relation to them and our common Master would naturally produce? Your committee would earnestly call upon this Association, to consider her relation to the cause of Christ, her obligations to the heathen and the destitute in all the world, her remissness in prayer and contributions, for the spread of the gospel, and the salvation of sinners and determine that henceforth she will come up to the help of the Lord, in some consistent sense, commensurate with the work to be done, and our duty to engage in that work. If Paul was a debtor, to the Greek and the Barbarian, because Christ had saved him by his grace, certainly we are debtors, for the same reason to the destitute, the benighted, the lost in every land.—Shall we pay the debt we owe, by giving heart and hand, money, influence, and prayers to help onward, to their final, and complete, and triumphant success, the missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A. T. HOLMES, Chairman.

Report adopted.

Bro. Stout from the Committee to draft a plan for Ministerial Education, made the following Report:

"Your committee beg leave to report:

"In regard to the subject of a Southern Theological College your committee sympathize with the the action of the late committee, and would hope that at their adjourned meeting to be held at Louisville, Ky., next May, that body may devise some comprehensive, practical plan, that will unite the denomination in the South in building up such an institution as shall meet our wants.

"Your committee are deeply impressed with the importance of having the theological department of Howard College speedily placed in a codition to meet the wishes and the wants of our churches, in the education of those of our young men, called of God to the gospel ministry, who, in providence, may be privileged to avail themselves of the advantages of the middle course of education suggested in the report.

"It occurs to your committee as a question of the greatest importance, and of the deepest interest, what provision ought to be made for such as are called of God and approved by the churches, to whom these high advantages are not available.

"After the most anxious examination of the whole question involved, your committee, with diffidence, would present the following plan as being in their judgement a good and practical one, viz:

"That the Board of the Central Institute be authorized and requested to make arrangements with the President for giving a course of biblical instruction in the elementary principles of theology.

"That the Board of the Institute advise the Executive Board of the Association of the arrangement so made, so that the latter may make provisions to meet the incurred expense.

"That the churches be requested to make provisions for the boarding and other necessary expenses of such students as may be recommended by the churches, of which they are members, to the Executive Board of the Association, and they undergo by them a satisfactory examination as to their Christian experience, call to, and qualification for the gospel ministry, and who are unable to meet such charge themselves.

"And your committee further recommend to the Association, the appointment of an Executive Board for the body consisting of five members."

P. STOUT, Chairman

The Report was adopted, and on motion of Elder J. M. Russell, the appointment of that Committee was left to the Committee on Nominations.

The following Report from the Committee on the "State of Religion," was read.

"We, your committee to whom was referred the 'State of Religion,' beg leave to submit the following report:

"We are sorry to inform you that there appears to be a want of that reviving Spirit which has heretofore been manifested amongst the churches, and a lack of that Christian zeal which should ever characterize God's people.

"While some of the churches have been abundantly blessed with the outpouring of Divine Grace, an exqual number complain of coldness and want of interest in their Master's cause.

"Whence proceeds this state of religion? God has promised not to forsake his children—he will not forsake them: but it is to be feared that His people are forgetting Him, who is the giver of all good things.

"If His people have torn down their altars, let them build them up again; if they have become lukewarm, let their prayers ascend to the throne of the Most High, calling for aid through the mediation of that glorious Advocate, 'who is able to save to the uttermost, all that come unto God by Him.'"

J. R. STEELY, Chairman.

Report adopted.

The following preamble and resolution, offered by brother Russell, was adopted:

"WHEREAS, the nature of the relation that exists between christian masters and their servants partakes much of the nature of that dependent relation which exists between parents and children, in reference to their moral and religious training, as set forth by the scriptures of truth, it is, therefore, undoubtedly the duty of all christian masters, as well as all others, to provide the best means of moral and religious instruction for them that they can, agreeably with the laws of the land. And whereas, this Association has heretofore given advice upon this important matter, which we think is capable of being profitably amended, and which is, from the nature of the case, demaned by the churches—therefore be it

Resolved, That we recommend our churches to so enlarge their houses of worship as to accommodate all their servants, and that they take them, with them, on their regular meeting days, as they do their children, and see that they behave themselves while there and in going to and from church. If it be impracticable to so enlarge their houses of worship as to accommodate them at the same time with the white congregation, then we advise that the churches make an arrangement with their pastors that will enable him to

preach, at least, one day out of the month, and that their owners leave them not to their choice, but let him see that each servant is decently prepared in time to go to meeting, and then go with them, or send his overseer, and require a similar observance of good order and subordination as he does of his child: and that the members of our churches be taught gospel discipline by the means of holding regular conference with them. And we furthermore recommend our churches, that when they have negroes who wish to preach, let them undergo as rigid an examination as Paul to Timothy recommends."

Bro. Gary moved that the Clerk be ordered to forward a copy of said resolution to the S. W. Baptist for publication.

The following resolution was offered by Bro. Stout, and adopted by the Association :

"*Resolved*, That the power and duties of the Executive Committee of this Association, be to take charge of, and superintend all Missionary and Colporteur operations of the Association, and such other business as shall be referred to it, to be carried out in vacation; and fully report to the body at the succeeding session ; and that they have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their own body."

The Committee on Correspondence here made their Report, and the letter of Bro. F. M. Law, Cor. Sec. of the Ala. Bap. Bib. and Colp. Society, was read in connection with said report. The further consideration was postponed to allow the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Book Depository, to make their Report, which was as follows :

We your Committee to whom was referred the account of the Superintendent of the Central Book Depository, report that we have examined said account, and find in the hands of the Superintendent, the sum of $95 86 in cash ; in the hands of Bro. J. A. Pylant, the sum of $16 20; Bro. Akins, $31 67; Bro. A. W. Bullard, $0 92; Bro. Jas. W. Bullard, $1 95; Bro. J. R. Steely, $11 66; Bro. J. H. Colley, $1 29,—amounting in cash and pledges to $159 55; books on hand supposed to be $50 00; subscription' 1854, $87 52. Total, $297 07.

"Your Committee believe that the Book Depository has accomplished about all that it can do at Rockford; and we therefore recommend that the funds and books be turned over to the State Depository, or into the hands of the Executive Committee, to be used in our bounds, as contemplated in a resolution adopted at the last session of this body. As to the subscription and pledges, we think in all probability some will not be collected.

Respectfully submitted." GUY SMITH, Cha'n.

Adopted.

A motion was then made to adopt the report of the Committee on Correspondence, which was opposed until that portion relative to the correspondence of Bro. Law, was struck out. The report adopted is as follows :

"The Committee on Correspondence beg leave to report that they have examined the letters sent up by our sister Associations, and find nothing requiring special action.

"In all the letters received, the kindest wishes are expressed for our welfare ; and we trust the Association will continue the corr espondence in the same spirit.

"There has been placed in our hands, a letter from Bro. F. M. Law, Corresponding Secretary of the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society, requesting us to become auxiliary to the Bible Board at Selma, in our Colportage operations. Respectfully submitted.

GUY SMITH, Cha'n.

Bro. Russell offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That we dispense with printing a digest of the letters from the churches, and earnestly request the churches to send up in their letters at the

next session of the Association, a concise history of the origin, the progress, and prosperity of their churches, as well as who have served them as pastors and deacons, with the incidents connected therewith, so that the actual history of our Association may be preserved; which history shall appear in the Minutes. That this may be done, let each church enlarge the Minute fund a little.

The body then adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Ordered that the funds, not otherwise appropriated, be equally divided between the Foreign and Domestic Boards, and the Bible Board at Nashville.

The Treasurer was directed to pay over the funds to any authorized agents.

The Committee on Nominations, reported Bros. A. T. Holmes, A. B. Callaway, Wm. M. Lindsey, I. W. Suttle, and T. L. Hudgins, as the Executive Committee.

Adopted.

Bro. Wm. C. Barnes was re-elected Treasurer.

Bro. Stout offered the succeeding resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the Books and all the assets in the hands of the Depository Board of this body, be turned over to the Executive Committee, who, at their discretion, may either transfer them to the Alabama Baptist Bible and Colporteur Society, or employ a competent Colporteur and home evangelist—superintend his work, and manage all the business connected with the enterprise.

CORRESPONDENTS.

The following brethren then volunteered to go as delegates to the different bodies named.

State Convention: Bros. J. M. Russell, P. Stout, A. T. Holmes, J. D. Williams, I. W. Suttle, and J. Bankston.

Liberty Association: Bros. Jeter, Timmerman, Stout, and Steely.

Coosa River: Bros. Brewer, Morris,, I. W. Suttle, Hughes, Pylant, Steely, Bankston, J. A. Suttle, and G. Smith.

Tuskegee: Elders Holmes and Stout.

Unity: Bros. J. D. Letcher and Stout.

Arbacoochie; Bro. W. H. Wamble.

Carey: Bros. Steely, Jas. W. Bullard, and D. Conner.

Alabama: Bros. Barnes and Jeter.

The delegates to the several Associations, were requested to act as the special correspondents required by the previous action of this body. The letter was also ordered to be immediately prepared.

The Financial Committee here submitted their Report, which was adopted.

[Found in Appendix.]

The appointment of an agent to canvass the State, was placed in the hands of the Board of Trustees.

It was ordered that 800 copies of the Minuutes be printed.

Clerk's fees $25.

The following Committees were appointed to report at the next session.

On Missions of Southern Baptist Convention: J. D. Williams, P. Stout, and R. Smoot.

State of Religion: J. A. Pylant, J. R. Steely, and G. Smith.

On Education: A. T. Holmes, Jos. W. Bozeman, and W. C. Barnes.

On Sabbath Schools: A. H. Kendrick, R. Edwards, and A. Little.

On Temperance: A. T. Maxwell, B. Skipper, and Jas. Walker.

The body then adjourned, to meet with Union Church the Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1857.

On parting, an affectionate leave of each other was taken, while singing the 1148th hymn.

JOSEPH BANKSTON, *Mod.*

GEO. E. BREWER, *Clerk.*

I would, on behalf of the Association, tender our warmest thanks to the citizens around Friendship, for the hospitality exhibited during the session.

G. E. BREWER, *Clerk.*

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

SHILOH, Nixburg.—Rec'd by baptism, 8; by letter, 3; dismissed, 3. Total, 92. A. H. Kendrick, clerk.

ELKAHATCHIE, Fish Pond.—By letter, 2; dismissed, 8; excluded, 1; dead, 1. Total, 53. A. T. Maxwell, clerk.

FRIENDSHIP, Bradford.—By letter, 2; dismissed, 33. Total, 59. R. W. Palmer, clerk.

MT. ZION, Dadeville.—By baptism, 16. Total, 110.

TOWN CREEK.—By baptism, 0; by letter, 1; dismissed, 2; excluded, 2. Total, 21. G. M. Gamble, clerk.

SPRING HILL, Good Water.—By baptism, 12; by letter, 6, voucher, 1. Total, 39. J. Mizzle, clerk.

LIBERTY, Fish Bond.—By letter, 5; dismissed, 7. Total, 55. F. F. Wood, clerk.

UNION, Central Institute.—By baptism, 4; by letter, 11; dismissed, 26; excluded, 5. Total, 185. W. C. Barnes, clerk.

HARMONY, Kowaliga.—By baptism, 5; by letter, 6; restored, 1; dismissed, 14; excluded, 3. Total, 86. Nathan Jester, clerk.

BETHESDA, Nixburg.—By baptism, 6; by letter 11; dismissed, 2; excluded, 2. Total, 64. J. H. Cleveland, clerk.

CONCORD, Rockford.—By baptism, 15; by letter, 8; dismissed, 9; excluded, 1; dead, 1. Total, 76. W. J. Cline, clerk.

SHADY GROVE, Rockford.—By baptism, 5; by letter, 6; dismissed, 2; excommunicated, 6. Total, 48. H. S. Bussy, clerk.

MT. ZION, Wetumpka.—Baptized, 4; letter, 5; dismissed, 8; dead, 1. Total, 52. J. G. Gregory, clerk.

ANTIOCH, Wetumpka.—By baptism, 11; by letter, 4; dead, 1; dismissed, 7; excluded, 2. Total, 84. E. T. Smith, clerk.

GOOD HOPE, Wetumpka.—By baptism, 2; dismissed, 6; excluded, 2. Total, 109. E. Wadsworth, clerk.

BETHLEHEM, Chaneyhatchee.—By baptism, 5; letter, 5; voucher, 2; dismissed, 25; excommunicated, 5; dead, 1. Total, 74. J. N. Garrett, clerk.

1ST WETUMPKA, Wetumpka.—By baptism, 5; letter, 16; dismissed, 13; dead, 1. Total, whites, 77; blacks, 161.

WEOGUFKA, Weogufka.—By baptism, 2; letter, 12; dismissed, 8; excluded, 2. Total, 115. Benj. Griffin, clerk.

POPLAR SPRING, Hanover.—By baptism, 1; letter, 12; dismissed, 16; excluded, 2; dead, 2. Total, 101. J. A. Logan, clerk.

ROCKFORD.—By baptism, 7; letter, 12; restoration, 1; dismissed, 7; excluded, 3. Total, 65. J. L. Gilder, clerk.

PAINT CREEK, Marble Valley—By bapiism, 2; dismissed, 3; excluded, 4. Total, 23. James L. Findley, clerk.

PROVIDENCE, Traveller's Rest—By baptism, 1; letter, 4. Total, 21. Isaiah Holmes, clerk.

MT. OLIVE, Mt. Olive—By baptism, 18; letter, 5; dismissed, 4. Total, 93.

UNION SPRING, Marble Valley—Paid the pastor in 1852, $55; 1853, $30 60; 1854, $28 50; 1855, $40; dismissed, 9; excluded, 1; voucher, 1. Total, 50. John Cooper, clerk.

SALEM, Rockford—Baptized, 1. Total, 56.

Baptized during the year	130	Dismissed by letter	213
Received by letter	136	Excluded	41
Restored	3	Dead	8
Total received*	269	Total decrease	262

Net increase, 7. Total membership, as reported, 1,969.

* From two Churches there are not full statistics.

STANDING ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear the Letters from the Churches.
2. Elect a Moderator and Clerk.
3. Extend the usual invitation to visiting Ministers.
4. Call for petitions from Churches wishing to join.
5. Appoint the following Committees to report during the session.
   I. To arrange preaching.
   II. Prepare a digest of the letters.
   III. On Finance and Auditing.
   IV. On Documents and Requests.
   V. On Nominations.
   VI. On correspondence, or any other subject requiting the labors of a Committee,
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Have the Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call the Roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear the Report of the Trustees of the Institute.
10. Hear the Treasurer's Report and refer it to the Committee on Finance and Auditing.
11. Hear Reports of Standing Committees.
12. Give instructions about appropriating funds.
13. Appoint Committees to report to the next session on the following subjects:
   I. On the state of Religion.
   II. On Missions of the Southern Baptist Convention.
   III. On Education.
   IV. On Temperance.
   V. On Sabbath Schools.
14. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
15. Make arangements for printing and distribution of Minutes.
16. Correct the Minutes and adjourn.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

First District meets with Mount Zion, Friday before the 2d Sabbath in August, 1857.

Second District, Bethesda.

Third District, Bethel, Friday before the 3d Sabbath in August, 1857.

Fourth District, Weogufka, Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1857.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

JOSEPH BANKSTON, Pres't,	A. B. CALLAWAY,
W. C. BARNES,	J. W. JETER,
A. T. MAXWELL,	P. McKINNEY,
RICH'D SMOOT,	J. D. LETCHER,
D. W. BOZEMAN,	J. A. PYLANT,
W. M. LINDSEY, Sec'y,	F. F. WOOD,

OWEN SWINDLE.

FACULTY.

REV. A. T. HOLMES, Pres't and Prof. of Rhetoric, &c.

REV. B. T. SMITH, Prof. of Math. & Natural Science.

MR. P. SAVAGE, Prof. of Ancient Languages.

First Term, for 1857, will begin January 14th, and close Wednesday after 2d Sabbath in June. The Examination will begin on the preceding Friday.

Second Term will commence on the 2d Wednesday in July following.

☞ BROTHER: We occupy this little space in your Minutes, to ask you a few questions. Do you take the *South Western Baptist*? If you do not, have you a good reason why you do not? You need not plead poverty; for $2 a year is too small a trifle to plead as an excuse. Ask your pastors and brethren, who have read it for years, of its benefit to personal piety and the promotion of the Cause of Christ. Your family need the information it imparts. Will you give it to them? We, its editors, tho' not members in your Body, are well known to you. We would like to preach to you in person; but can only do so through our paper. Send on your names. Your pastors will act as agents for us.

Should you be in arrears with us, transmit it early, and oblige

S. HENDERSON.
H. E. TALIAFERRO.